VALIANT.
NOV. NO. 6
25¢ CAN
VALIANT
=VOICE=
DR. MIRAGE DEBUTS!
A SNEAK PEEK AT VALIANT VISION
INTRODUCING THE SECRET IDENTITY CHALLENGE

VALIANT Voice

VOLUME NUMBER ONE
ISSUE NUMBER SIX

THIS MIRAGE IS FOR REAL

In a summer overcrowded with new universes and multi-part crossover sagas, one might expect that a comic book about a married couple's relationship would garner little attention. But when that comic book is written by VALIANT Editor-in-Chief Bob Layton and co-plotted by VALIANT's hottest artist, Bernard Chang, you can bet that *THE SECOND LIFE OF DR. MIRAGE* will have comics readers everywhere sit up and take notice! Premiering in August and retailing for $2.50 ($3.15 Canadian), ***DR. MIRAGE*** brings readers more of what makes VALIANT great – solid storytelling, exciting art, and characters so real and complex that they seem more like your old friends than cliché comics heroes.

THE SECOND LIFE OF DR. MIRAGE centers on the adventures of Chinese-American parapsychologist Hwen Mirage and his wife and partner, Carmen Ruiz. The two, who scientifically investigate paranormal phenomena, made their debut in the pages of ***SHADOWMAN*** #16. The supernatural sleuths are in for a shock when their search for arcane secrets brings them up against VALIANT's most diabolical villain: Master Darque. And in seeking the secrets of the Darque Lover, Mirage pays for his curiosity with his life! But Mirage finds that his death is only the beginning of his adventures. Brought back from the Great Beyond by Carmen's love, he returns in a spectral, intangible state, unable to even touch the woman he conquered Death to rejoin.

"The book is about relationships – about a married couple who must persevere in the most extraordinary of circumstances," explains Bob Layton, who initially conceived the series. But don't get the idea that this is VALIANT's equivalent of a dime store romance novel. ***DR. MIRAGE*** packs plenty of action and will ultimately have a substantial impact on the VALIANT Universe. At the forefront of the action will be Carmen, an unusually strong female comics character. Adept at Capoeira, the visually spectacular Brazilian martial art based on dance, Carmen is a strong-willed character who will appeal to comicdom's readership, including the long-neglected female readers. Between Carmen's fearlessness and Mirage's need to better understand his ghostly state, this unlikely pair will go on to reveal to VALIANT readers long hinted-at secrets of the VALIANT Universe.

Furthermore, ***THE SECOND LIFE OF DR. MIRAGE*** is the first regular series for the art team of Bernard Chang and Ken Branch. Bernard's clean, exciting pencilling style will be familiar to readers of his previous work in ***TUROK, ARCHER & ARMSTRONG, H.A.R.D. CORPS*** and ***DEATHMATE***. Growing with each new project, Bernard is doing his finest work to date on ***DR. MIRAGE***, and inker Ken Branch, who is new to VALIANT, is really making Carmen and Hwen come to life. In fact, Bob Layton states that his favorite thing about working on ***DR. MIRAGE*** is "getting to work with hot young talents like Bernard Chang and Ken Branch. Having the opportunity to watch them develop and grow...that's pretty cool!"

What's even cooler is how ***THE SECOND LIFE OF DR. MIRAGE*** will affect the rest of the VALIANT Universe. Already, in the first issue, we shall see a major turning point for the people at Ladakh that has figured so prominently in ***ARCHER & ARMSTRONG*** and ***ETERNAL WARRIOR***. Also, look for a close relationship with ***SHADOWMAN*** as both books will explore the mystical aspects of the VALIANT Universe and reveal more of the secrets of the mysterious Master Darque. So if you've been waiting for a book that has it all—action, romance, comedy, tragedy, and adventure, then don't miss the premiere of ***THE SECOND LIFE OF DR. MIRAGE***! ✲

SHADOWMAN 19 : Caught Between a Hard Rock and a Darque Place

SHADOWMAN #19, shipping in August, is sure to be another rocking VALIANT issue — thanks to a guest appearance by rock and roll legends, Aerosmith. "It's going to be a hot issue," said Steven J. Massarsky, VALIANT publisher and one-time legal counsel for the band's management company. "Steven (Tyler) is a great comics fan. He and Joe (Perry), Brad(Whitford), Tom (Hamilton) and Joey (Kramer) are really up for it. Shadowman writer/penciller Bob Hall is one of our top creators and is putting his heart and soul into the work. The book will be awesome."

Shadowman is Jack Boniface, a Bourbon Street jazz saxophone musician. With each sunset, he is overcome by the compulsion to seek out and destroy evil. He deals out vigilante justice on the dark streets of the Big Easy, disguised by an eerie carnival mask. The series has a solid readership and has received much attention both in and out of the comics industry, as when New Orleans Mayor Sidney J. Barthelemy proclaimed January 17th-18th as "***SHADOWMAN*** Days."

"The story has the band on their current tour, playing a gig in New Orleans, Shadowman's home turf," explains VALIANT Editor-in-Chief Bob Layton."Master Darque, one of the VALIANT Universe's most powerful villains, wants to access the energy generated by the group's legion of fans. He enslaves one deranged fan to possess Steven Tyler, and Shadowman finds himself fighting alongside Aerosmith to save Tyler's life. The consequences of this latest confrontation between Shadowman and Darque will continue through the coming months in Shadowman."

Aerosmith's latest release, "Get A Grip" stands prominently among the Top 5 of Billboard magazine's Top 100 Album Chart, bringing even more heat onto this already red-hot issue. Be sure to "Get A Grip" on ***SHADOWMAN*** #19 before it passes you by! ✲

EDITORIAL

Dues Blues (Part 1)

Having completed my leg of the ***DEATHMATE*** Dues Tour, I could go on and on about how monumental a task it was, or how terrific all the fans were, or how ***DEATHMATE*** is the greatest crossover in the history of comics —

— but I won't.

It all started well enough. The beautiful, white stretch limousine picked us up on time at the VALIANT office Friday afternoon for our trek to Kennedy airport. With Rodney Ramos, Tom Ryder, Jon Hartz, Tour Manager Derek Wilkinson and myself in tow, off we went through rush-hour traffic and sweltering one-hundred degree temperatures (it was the hottest day of the summer).

The limousine driver, who I believe thought we were extremely late for our plane, proceeded to drive to the airport at a clip that could only be described as dizzying. Ignoring our pleas to slow down, he bounced us around like a tennis ball at Wimbledon. Undaunted, we checked in at the airline terminal, only to find that, due to mechanical failure, our flight had been delayed for over two hours!

With the wait over, we boarded the twin-prop engine "flying schoolbus" for our sojourn to the wilds of Rhode Island. But alas, heat and traffic kept us on the tarmac for another hour. Derek, being British, said something typical of his ilk like — "keep a stiff upper lip", or some such nonsense.

After a bumpy hour of flight, the plane touched down in Providence — but not without incident. As luck would have it, a young man sitting by the side door of the aircraft, decided to become airsick and proceeded to empty the contents of his stomach all over the exit area of the crammed plane! To make matters worse — the door to the craft jammed and we were trapped with the ever growing pile of spew!!

To make a long story short — we were finally extricated from the plane, thanks to the diligence of the gagging flight crew, and we proceeded to our hotel to begin the bus tour. But the adventures continued.

More next month.

Bob Layton
Editor-In-Chief

THE CHIEF AND THE DOCTOR

"The Chief" Bob Layton and "The Doctor" Bernard Chang

*Exploding on the scene in August, **THE SECOND LIFE OF DR. MIRAGE** shows promise of becoming the hottest book of the year. Written by VALIANT's Editor-in-Chief, Bob Layton (the creator of X-O MANOWAR) and penciled by newcomer Bernard Chang (penciller of ARCHER & ARMSTRONG #9 and HARD C.O.R.P.S. #5), DR. MIRAGE has sent an expectant buzz throughout the industry.*

Bob (just about to depart for his stint on the DEATHMATE Tour) and Bernard (in town for the week from Miami) sat and talked with the VALIANT Voice about launching a new book and their thoughts on its premise.

VV: *In a time when new characters and new titles are produced almost mechanically, what is so different about DR. MIRAGE?*

BL: There is no doubt an abundance of comic book characters is out there today. But, we could use the term "character" lightly. What I see most of the time is a costume with a name attached to it. And some sort of obscure superpower or what have you, that has nothing to do with "character." One of the things that separates ***DR. MIRAGE*** from a lot of books out there is the fact that it is a very character-oriented book. Believable characters. Bernard and I have worked very hard on making Carmen and Mirage people that the audience can relate to. Anybody who's ever been in a relationship can appreciate the way that they talk to each other and relate to each other. That's really what I think the thrust of this book is; that although they are placed in fantastic situations and have to overcome some incredible adversity that the average person may not, they still behave very much as you or I would—with a lot of human foibles and humor.

VV: *Bernard?*

BC: I think there are a lot of books out there that are action-oriented and there are a lot of books that are humor-oriented or relationship-oriented. But with Mirage, you get a combination of the three in an entire story, and that's the key difference. For example, people who are not science fiction fans love Star Wars because it didn't just have action, it had other elements. Action-adventure, romance and humor. With Mirage, we will be able to put out a quality book that will not just interest one type of reader but the entire spectrum.

VV: *What is the book about?*

BL: It's about a husband and wife team of parapsychologists. The husband is fascinated with the concept of magic. He has devoted his life to trying to discover the roots of the supernatural...if they really do exist. He's more like the Amazing Randi...he is able to debunk a lot a things that are supposedly mystical. Carmen is an electrical engineer whom he met in college and fell madly in love with. And in their quest to discover the supernatural...they find it. Unfortunately, it's Master Darque, who they find out is not someone to be trifled with. That sets off a series of events that lead to a tragedy in their life that they will have to continually overcome. It's a sister book to ***SHADOWMAN***, in the sense that Master Darque's home in the VALIANT Universe will now reside between those two books.

VV: *What was the inspiration for **DR. MIRAGE**?*

BL: The Thin Man meets Topper. Having lived through a successful chain of failed relationships, it seems that a great issue in my life is relationships. Every one of the readers out there has had to deal with problems in their relationships. Even in good ones. I don't think there is a lot being said about that in comics. There are those comics that are very soap opera-ish: one guy loves a woman but she doesn't know it, so on and so forth. Very stereotypical. It occurs to me that part of the problem of not appealing to women as readers is the fact that comics are so male, action-oriented. There are so few female characters that women can relate to, because they tend to be the male idea of what a woman is. Carmen doesn't just sit around. She takes charge. The best way to describe her is as a very headstrong woman, definitely the more aggressive of the two. She's a tough woman. Somewhat of a jock; she's the more physical of the two of them. She will be instrumental in rescuing Mirage. I enjoy writing Carmen, because, we all at times fail to cope with situations, but know someone who can. Carmen is that person. She naturally copes with things. We're trying to create fallible characters with believable backgrounds and behavior and inject that into the story. And hopefully, we will find a wider readership. Something that women will enjoy reading as much as men.

VV: *It seems, by the way you've described her, that Carmen will overwhelm him -- sort of the domineering wife?*

BL: Not really. She loves her husband intensely, and that's her motivation. Her actions are tempered by her love for Mirage. That's not controlling. The difference is that there is nothing she wouldn't do for him and vice versa. She would never take advantage of his affections for her to control or manipulate him. They just try to take care of each other. They trust each other. It may seem idealistic because real relationships are always struggling with that.

VV: *Bernard, what kind of input, if any, do you have on the direction of the book?*

BC: The penciller gets a lot of input, no matter what happens. Because the final product is visual and so... when I get the plot, I like to sit with Bob and run it over with him and make sure we're on the same wavelength. I try to feel out how the character would act, move, walk. That all goes into the character. For example, Master Darque wouldn't really be the type with fists drawn, ready to fight or walk in a very macho way. He's more of a slick, sly, smooth character. So, a lot of that has to go into the artwork itself and presented visually. It's similar to when you were in grammar school and the teacher told you to show, not tell. I try to show the action, so that the words complement the story and are not a crutch.

VV: *Is it easier to do this book, being that it's a new title and there's no past history?*

BC: Yes and no. With Mirage, I'm setting the blueprints visually for the character. Creatively and artistically, I get more freedom that way. On the other hand, if I was working on another book, with more established characters, it's easier to look at those books and see how the previous creators have been interpreting it, so that you have a basis on which to draw. But this, creating something from the ground up, is more exciting because the sky's the limit.

(The Mirage interview continued on page 7)

VALIANT.

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VOICE MAIL

Please address all correspondence to:
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New York, NY 10001

COVER CONTROVERSY

When Bob Layton asked the VALIANT readers to vote on the future of our enhanced covers, all he asked for was a "Yay" or "Nay". What we got was a barrage of well thought-out reflections on an industry-wide phenomenon. Here's what you, the Readers, had to say about cover enhancements—

A CALL FOR RESTRAINT

Dear Bob Layton,

I have decided to help you out on your problem with the enhanced covers. I believe VALIANT is doing a good job, unlike some other companies. You don't have too many of them, and they're only used on special occasions (anniversaries, first issues, etc.). I also believe that cover enhancements should be followed up by a big story. VALIANT consumers shouldn't pay the extra money just for the cover. However, I love reading your comics and no matter what your decision is, I'll keep on reading them. Thank you for listening to my opinion, and I hope you find it helpful.

Sincerely,
Raffi Khatchadourian
Devoted Valiant Comic Reader

Thanks, Raffi. You point out the strategy that VALIANT has been trying to stick to with our enhanced covers—do them only for truly special issues and never lose sight of the fact that it's the story, not the cover, that makes the comic worth reading.

NO ENHANCEMENTS — SORT OF...

Dear Mr. Layton,

I have been collecting VALIANT comics for about two years now. My favorite titles are ***ETERNAL WARRIOR, MAGNUS*** and ***BLOODSHOT***. No, I do not like the current trend of companies doing cover enhancements. Why? I don't think you should because VALIANT does not need them. ***SECRET WEAPONS #1*** had a great cover without enhancements. I don't think ***BLOODSHOT #1*** or ***TUROK #1*** looked awesome either. I think that a cover that has been carefully thought out and carefully drawn attracts customers—not special covers. Gatefolds are different. Keep making great comics and listening to your fans and VALIANT will last a long, long time. And people like me will keep buying.

Sincerely,
David Naumee
Scotland, CT

*David, the fact that **SECRET WEAPONS #1** had no cover enhancements reflects the fact that VALIANT isn't looking for just any excuse to do a cover gimmick. Only if we feel an enhancement technique will genuinely add some artistic value to the book do we use it. Sometimes, as with **TUROK #1**, the reponse is mixed. But, in the case of **X-O MANOWAR #0**, it's obvious that the full chromium cover was warranted -- and undeniably beautiful. Also, you mention that gatefold covers are acceptable. What about wrap-around covers? Where do we draw the line? The fact that some enhancements are viewed as more acceptable than others just shows that this issue is quite complicated and there may not be a way to please everyone.*

DON'T BELIEVE THE HYPE

Dear Mr. Layton,

You wish to know whether I want cover enhancements or gimmicks? My answer is a resounding NO!!! I want the price to be fair and competitive. This, along with well told and well drawn stories will, in the long run, bring VALIANT plenty of success and profit. All these secret first appearances and fancy-shmancy covers and such only pander to the speculators and greedheads. I want lower prices and good stories. I resent every time I pay extra for a cover doodad I could care less about just because I want to read the story inside the book.

I hope that enough people write to tell you the same thing and that you folks will get away from this silly gimmick crud. I want stories and characters that make me want to buy the next VALIANT comics, not some metal or plastic thingee stuck to the cover, or coupons or whatever. I think I have made my point now on this.

The only other thing I will say is that I don't like the hype-y aspect of your editorial pages. I would rather read *several* letters from other fans and hear what they have to say rather than read about the latest trip to wherever, or the pick of the month or all this other stuff. Let's get back to the *fans*, not the speculators, ok?

Sincerely,
Carl Petrantonio
Laredo, Texas

You make some very good points, Carl. You should also understand that many comics enhancements are new to the industry and we learn as we go. So, we try to go with what works best and learn from whatever mistakes we make. But we'll never arbitrarily do a gimmick cover of the week to jack up our sales. Nonetheless, sales results show that many readers want and enjoy these enhancements.

As for our "hype", your letter wouldn't appear here if we weren't willing to take a hard look at ourselves. Certainly, as far as the VALIANT Voice is concerned, we're looking to air more of our readers' thoughtful responses and provide a forum for readers to exchange their views. But we also feel a strong need to let the readers know how much fun we're having working (and vacationing) together to bring you entertainment. After all, this isn't business-as-usual comics. This is a family of comics lovers, creators and readers alike, and we want to share our good times and excitement with you.

PROCEED WITH CAUTION

Bob & Gang,

Thanks for this opportunity to discuss important issues in the comics industry. First, I want to discuss your covers in general. VALIANT has produced many excellent covers since the first ***MAGNUS*** and ***SOLAR*** issues. I first decided to buy ***SHADOWMAN*** and ***X-O MANOWAR*** based on the previews of those covers. There were a few times when I planned to drop ***HARBINGER*** (only because I prefer individual character development over team stories), but changed my mind as I saw each new, intriguing cover.

As for the enhanced covers, I want to say ***SOLAR*** #10 was exceptional. Now, the technique was not exactly new, but the application was perfect. Good concept cover. ***BLOODSHOT*** #1 and ***TUROK*** #1 were two beautiful techniques, but you lose 2 points for concept (sparkly dinosaurs?). My point is that I like those effects and I'm glad you introduced them to us, but use them wisely and to their best effect.

Another thing to consider when planning enhancements is cost. Our biggest decisions are not on what we want, but what we can afford. Chalk it up to customer loyalty that people complain rather than just pass over enhanced cover prices. You can be proud that your quality goes beyond the cover.

I expect VALIANT to continue to produce some of the best art and stories on the market. I expect you to use all available resources, but remember your readers are the ones you work for.

Thanks,
James Vessels
Blooming Grove, TX

Don't worry, James, we aren't about to forget that our readers are our ultimate judges. That's what this whole debate is about. If the readers' vote didn't matter, Bob wouldn't have bothered to ask for it. But the bottom line is that we must give our readers what they demand. So come on, the debate is just warming up! Send us your vote and thoughts on the cover controversy before August 31. This is your comics company!

NEWS FLASH

DEATHMATE FLASH!

Reports from the front lines tell of great success on the *DEATHMATE* Tour. The response has been phenomenal. The artists want to thank the fans who have been amazingly friendly and patient in their wait for autographs. We want to give a rousing hand to retailers who have put on extremely professional shows and made our work all the more enjoyable.

The third tour hits the road August 13, 1993. Here is a list of dates and artists.

August 13 - 15
San Francisco - Los Angeles

VALIANT
John Ostrander
Jimmy Palmiotti
Joe Quesada

IMAGE
Dan Fraga
Brandon Peterson
Sal Regla
Jeffrey Scott

August 16 - 19
Los Angeles - San Diego

VALIANT
Bernard Chang
Sean Chen
Mark Moretti

IMAGE
Dave Hoover
Greg Capullo
Alex Garner

CONVENTION UPDATE

VALIANT wishes to inform all its fans attending the San Diego Comicon that anyone coming dressed as their favorite VALIANT character will win a gold logo comic. Stop by our booth for more details.

SHAKING THE CREATIVE TREE

VALIANT has made some creative changes. As Bob explained in his VALIANT Voice #3 editorial, these changes are needed to ensure that the creative energy is kept flowing. These artists will be taking over as of the following issues:

H.A.R.D. CORPS #11
Yvel Guichet - pencils
Rodney Ramos - inks

ETERNAL WARRIOR #17
Ted Kalvod - pencils

HARBINGER #26
Sean Chen - pencils

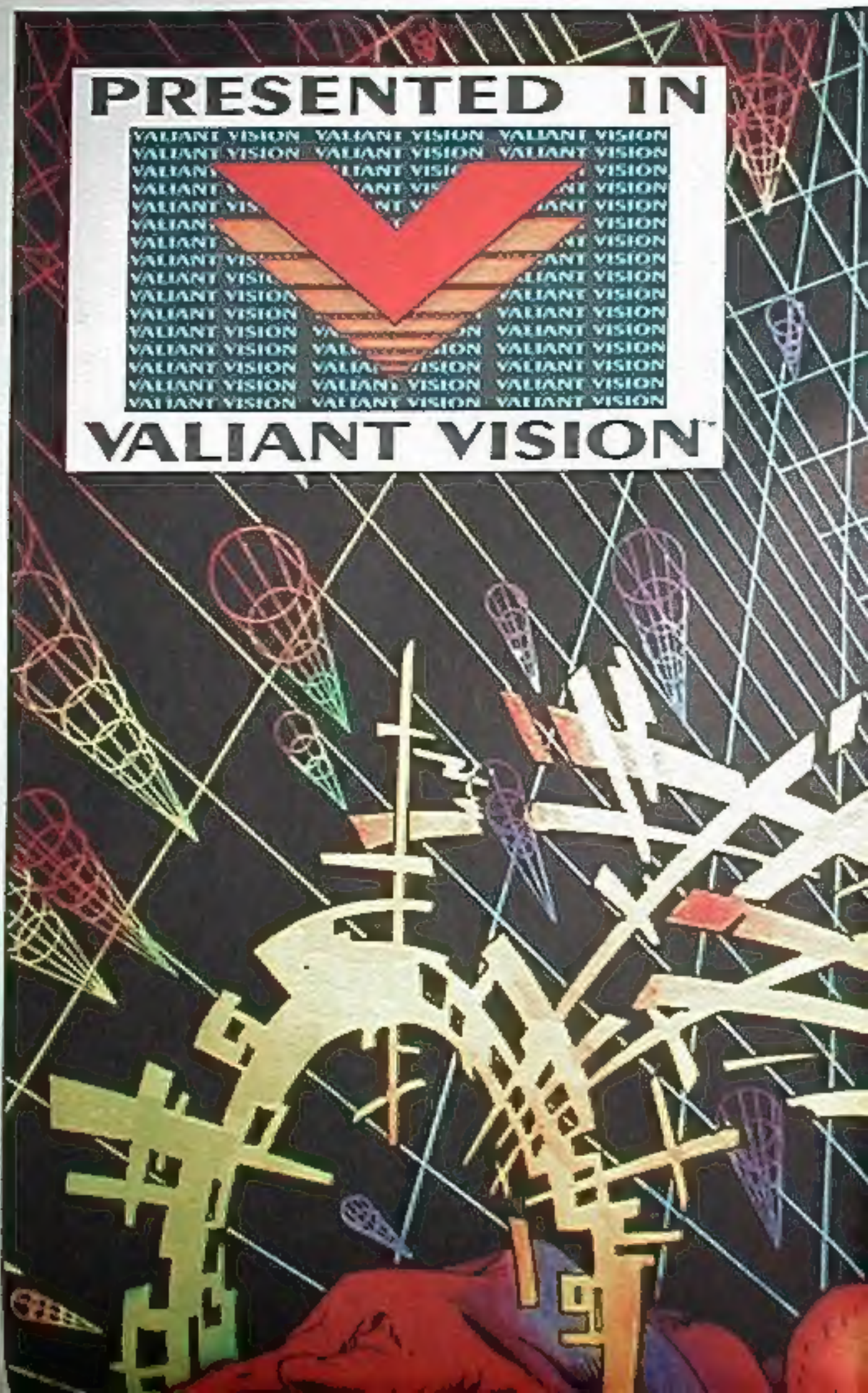
SECRET WEAPONS #3
Kathryn Bolinger - inks

Mike Lackie will pencil and Paul Antio will ink an as-of-yet unannounced new entry in the VALIANT Universe. Mark Moretti will take a brief sabbatical from penciling to concentrate on his writing and editorial duties. The artist of *RAI AND FUTURE FORCE* will be announced at a later date.

TRAVELING ART TOUR

The next stop on the VALIANT Traveling Art Tour will be:

July 22 - 30
New Dimension Comics
845 Laurens Road
Greenville, SC 29607
(803) 271-3104


PRESENTED IN
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VALIANT

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EN WE PREMIERE VALIANT VISION™ - - FOR YOUR FAVORITE
AR LEAPS OFF THE PAGE IN A MIND-BLOWING EXPERIENCE!
ISION, *SOLAR, MAN OF THE ATOM #29* IS A NORMAL COMIC
IKE THE COVER ART ABOVE. SOLAR #29 IS AVAILABLE FOR
ARATELY IN A STARTER KIT, WHICH ALSO COMES WITH AN
MS COVER) AND AN ORIGINAL JOE QUESADA POSTER.

INQUIRING VOICES

If VALIANT is supposed to be where "dead is dead," why have I been reading that Doctor Mirage is a dead guy?

Technically, Doctor Mirage is dead since his body was destroyed by Master Darque. However, Doctor Mirage's spirit, or life-force, managed to pull itself back into our plane of existence. This was made possible by a number of unusual factors relating to his death, but the single most important one was the continual love of his wife. This acted like a beacon, showing him the way back, and it continues to act as an anchor for him to hold himself in our world.

A View from Within

As most of you know, here at Valiant, "Knob Row" is our bullpen of talented young artists. Pencillers, colorists, and letterers work hand-in-hand with the writers and editors of each series. This close interaction benefits all concerned, but it may be the inkers that benefit the most. On a weekly basis, Editor-in-Chief, Bob Layton (one of the best inkers in the industry), gives a class on the finer points of inking to the bullpen. If this class were open to the public, it would be a must for anyone aspiring to work in comics. These sessions have helped develop inkers Kathryn Bolinger, Tom Ryder, Paul Autio, and Andrew Wendel, to name just a few. This passing of experience from veterans to promising newcomers is one of the biggest reasons for our success. In this environment, a person can progress quickly and make significant contributions in a remarkably short time.

Being Production Manager here, I would like to use this opportunity to recognize the production staff...Scott Friedlander, Randy Brozen, John Kelly, Lee Stacy, Raphael Soler, and Jesse Berdinka. (Pictured below!) These are the unsung heroes that help all of our books ship on time every month. Everyone here has been working *extremely hard* to keep our regular books on schedule, and to make sure that ***DEATHMATE*** ships on time, as well. But no department can say they have worked harder than Production.

This month's "Did You Know?" is about Executive Editor, Kevin VanHook... Did you know that Kevin not only writes ***BLOODSHOT, SOLAR, MAN OF THE ATOM***, and occasionally ***ETERNAL WARRIOR***, but he is also pencilling ***BLOODSHOT*** #0? (And it looks great!) Kevin also writes the syndicated strip "Flash Gordon."

ADS Darren Sanchez
Production Manager

Inkstuds in Action: (pictured from left to right) Bob Layton, Peter Palmiotti, Phyllis Novita, and Paul Autio

The Production Gang: (pictured from left to right) Darren Sanchez, Scott Friedlander, Randy Brozen, Jesse Berdinka, Raphael Soler, John Kelly, + and Lee Stacy (on Scott's lap!)

VALIANT ART AUCTION
RULES AND REGULATIONS

VALIANT is pleased to offer a select piece of original art for sale through auction. All works are unmatted and unframed on comic art boards. All proceeds go directly to the artist.

You can place your bid by mailing a letter with your name, address, phone number and the amount of your offer to: *Voyager Communications Inc., #75 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10001.* Each order form should contain bids for one sale only. Bids of unlimited amounts will not be accepted. All bids must be received by September 15, 1993. VALIANT will not be responsible for error or failure to execute bids. Bids will not be accepted by telephone. The piece will be awarded to the highest bidder above the minimum bid. In the event of duplicate bids, the art work will be awarded to the bid with the earliest postmark. The winning bidder will be notified and invoiced within a few days of the sale. The winning bidder will pay the full purchase price upon receipt of invoice. Unless exempted by law, the purchaser will be required to pay the combined New York State and local sales tax, any applicable compensating use tax of another state, and if applicable, any federal luxury or other tax on the total purchase price. In the event of the winning bidder's failure to pay the full purchase price, the artwork will be awarded to the next highest bidder. The results will be published in the VALIANT Voice.

ETERNAL WARRIOR NO.5 COVER
PENCILS BY: JOE ST. PIERRE
INKS BY: JOHN DIXON
MINIMUM BID: $250 U.S. DOLLARS

The conditions of sale, as well as the purchaser's and our respective rights and obligations hereunder, shall be governed by and construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of New York. By bidding at an auction, the purchaser shall be deemed to have consented to the exclusive jurisdiction of the state courts of, and the federal courts sitting in, the State of New York.

VALIANT
SECRET IDENTITY CHALLENGE

Q: I was first introduced as a major of the North Am security command staff, but received a field promotion to the rank of colonel from Senator Clane during the Freewill Rebellion. I was at the battle of the Mainbrain complex, and am the only surviving member of General Mimsy's army. Instead of carrying out the General's last order - set off Mainbrain's self-destruct device - I fled from the scene. I have been trying to atone for this cowardly act ever since. I recently revealed to Leeja Clane that I have always been romantically interested in her, but she thinks of me only as a friend.

Who Am I?

Send a postcard with your name, address, and your guess to: *VALIANT Voice/Secret Identity Challenge #1; c/o Voyager Communications; 275 Seventh Ave.; New York, NY 10001.* The first fifty (50) postmarked responses with the correct answer will receive a gift, compliments of VALIANT. All entries must be postmarked no later than August 31st, 1993. Limit one gift per household.

VV: *Bob, with the established talent you have on board here -- Don Perlin, Bob Hall, Joe Quesada -- why was Bernard the right artist to launch this book?*

BS: Many reasons. Firstly, is the wonderful rapport I have with Bernard. He and I see things very much the same way. He is the quickest study I've ever worked with. Secondly, his style lends itself very well to the feel I wanted for the book. Bernard, although he won't admit this himself, is a romantic, and he draws in a very romantic vein, with large Art Deco backgrounds and lyrical body movements. Thirdly, Bernard's characters act; their subtleties, their expressions, are evoked through his drawings. I can write dialogue from his work because the characters' expressions are so easy to draw upon. And sometimes I don't even have to say a word because the expressions speak for themselves. Bernard excels at that. And he's a terrific guy.

VV: *Bob's background, from the Marvel years to VALIANT, are well known. Bernard, tell us something about how you started.*

BC: Well, for about four years I was concentrating on the fine arts, and architecture, which I'm studying now in college. In the last two years I had attempted to get into the comics field. I attended the San Diego Comic Con and met Bob in hopes of getting work. I was pretty excited because I had heard that San Diego was where a lot of artists had been discovered. I showed my stuff to Bob and actually, was not sure exactly how he liked it. He said he did, and told me to come by the office when I got to New York, but when I offered him copies of my work he didn't want them. He said he didn't need them because he would remember, but at that time I thought that it wasn't an optimistic sign.

BS: I didn't need them. He had made such an impression on me...the thinking that I saw in his work was something I wouldn't forget.

BC: *The first day I came into the office, he sat with me and worked with me on my drawings and told me to come back.* I have to say that that was the happiest day of my life. I had gone to a fine arts high school, and there I was with one of the finest artists in the business, and he liked my work.

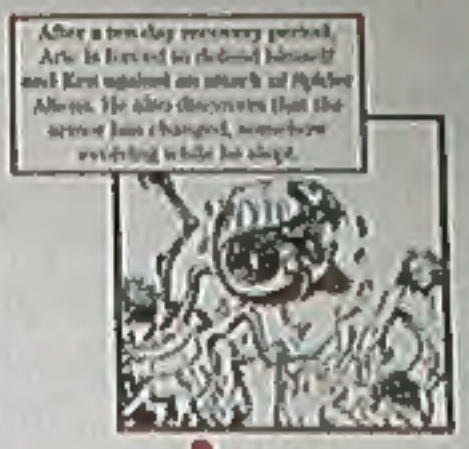
There was a time when I had stopped reading comic books, when I concentrated on other genres of art, and I have to say that that was a turning point for me. I began looking for different interpretations like Norman Rockwell, for example, who is able to tell a story in one picture. And that is something that I saw and admired in Bob's work.

BS: That kind of thinking is what we strive for here at VALIANT. We want to bring comics back to their aesthetic origins: to storytelling and characterization first and splashy imagery second. Not that we don't like big exciting pictures, but it should be more dimensional than that. There must be more. I stress to all my artists that storytelling is fundamental. That they must keep in mind what the writer is trying to achieve, what the inker and colorist are trying to achieve, in order for everyone to be in synch and telling the same story.

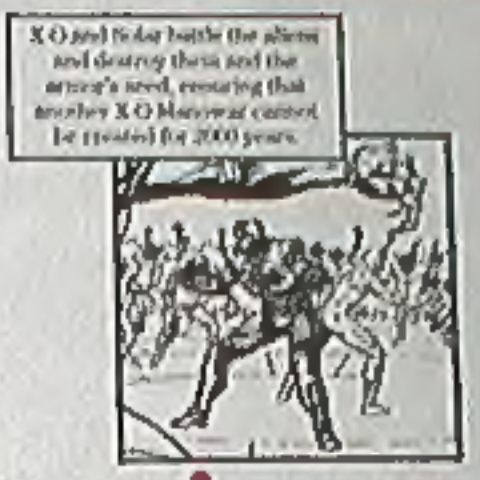
VV: *What is the one thing that you want the fans to walk away with after reading THE SECOND LIFE OF DR. MIRAGE?*

BS: The same thing I want them to be left with after reading all Valiant books: thoroughly entertained and dying for more.

BC: That each thirty days they'll go and buy numbers #2 and #3 and #4, because they like the book so much! ☺


After a two day recovery period, Arc is forced to defend himself and Kent against an attack of Spider Aliens. He also discovers that the armor has changed, somehow evolving while he slept.

MAY 1992


X-O and Arc battle the aliens and destroy them and the armor's seed, ensuring that another X-O Manowar cannot be created for 200 years.

AUG. 1992

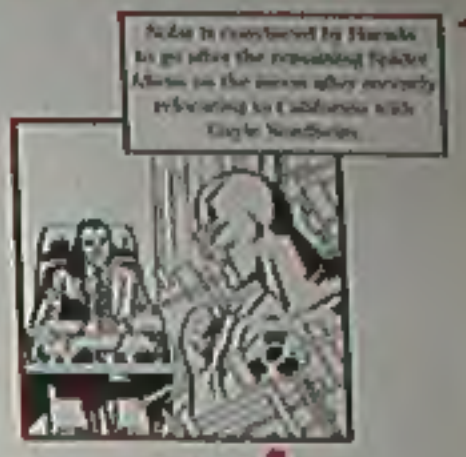
Returning to base with a stolen Harbinger data disk, the H.A.R.D. Corps agents are trailed and their headquarters destroyed by Eggheaders and Harbinger Foundation troops.

DEC. 1992

1993 A.D.

1993 A.D.

TIMELINE OF THE VALIANT UNIVERSE


Archer is convinced by Harada to get after the remaining Spider Aliens on the moon after recently relocating to California with Gayle Sanchez.

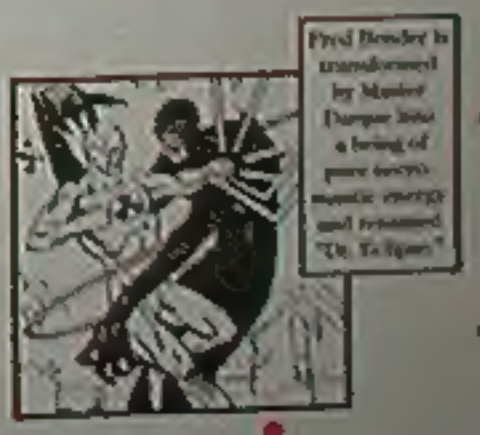
AUG. 1992

Geoff the Geomancer awakes past the security at Project Rising Spirit, interfering with their latest experiment. In the present, the hero known as Bloodshot is released into the world.

NOV. 1992

MAR. 1992

1993 A.D.



1993 A.D.

CONTINUED MONTHLY IN THE VALIANT VOICE

~COMING THIS MONTH~

AUGUST SPOTLIGHT ON:

MIRAGE #1

By Layton, Chang, Branch and Fontenot
$2.50/$3.15 Canadian

When a husband and wife team of parapsychologists stumble across one of Master Darque's evil schemes, the price for their interference must be paid...in blood. Darque soon learns, however, that he has sown the seeds of his own destruction when Doctor Mirage is born! Also includes bound-in Doctor Mirage poster.

SHADOWMAN #19

By Hall, Dixon and Cavalieri
$2.50/$3.15 Canadian

Guest Starring Steven Tyler and Aerosmith - Steven Tyler and Aerosmith team up with Shadowman in a musical mystery tour of Master Darque's New Orleans.

SHADOWMAN #3

By St. Pierre and Mike Cavalieri
$2.25/$2.85 Canadian

Empirical Dynasty (Pt. 1 of 2) - The Eternal Warrior and Archer & Armstrong help Geoff, Livewire and Stronghold fight the Iwatsu Corporation and its army of exotic "Bloodshots" - the Specishots. This story continues in September's **BLOODSHOT** #11.

DEATHMATE BLUE

BLUE
$4.95/$6.25 Canadian

The second of the **VALIANT** books in the epic **DEATHMATE** crossover. This issue features: **Chapter One - Magnus/Battlestone** by Defalco and Coleborne; **Chapter Two - Livewire/Stronghold/Striker/Impact** by St. Pierre, Chen and Bolinger; **Chapter Three - Harbinger/Brigade** by Fontenot and Simpson; **Chapter Four - Solar/Supreme** by VanHook and Grau.

ALSO THIS MONTH:

ARCHER & ARMSTRONG #16

By Perham, Wendel and Garzón
$2.50/$3.15 Canadian

Two rival factions of the Sect have Archer and Armstrong gambling with their lives during a road trip to Las Vegas.

BLOODSHOT #10

By VanHook, Perlin, Dixon and Jade
$2.25/$2.85 Canadian

Bloodshot searches the tunnels of Cu Chi for a "Tunnel Rat," a former Vietnam vet who's responsible for a string of murders along the Mekong Delta.

ETERNAL WARRIOR #16

By Morrell, Guichet and Dratos
$2.25/$2.85 Canadian

Gil must rescue Bloodshot from Iwatsu's son before he learns the secrets of Bloodshot's powers. This story is a prequel to the "Empirical Dynasty" storyline in **Secret Weapons** #3 (August) and **Bloodshot** #12 (September).

HARBINGER #23

By Fontenot, Simpson, Mayo and Becker
$2.50/$3.15 Canadian

Twilight of the Eighth Day (Pt. 1 of 3) - Pete learns that his friends are being controlled remotely. He is forced to make a decision that could spell the end of the Harbinger kids.

H.A.R.D. CORPS #12

By Michelinie, Guichet and Ramos
$2.25/$2.85 Canadian

It's H.A.R.D. Corps member versus H.A.R.D. Corps member...or is it? "The Chairman" continues his evil plot to destroy the team from within.

ARCHANGEL #30

By Ostrander, Calafiore, and Wendel
$2.25/$2.85 Canadian

The Battle of South Am (Pt. 2 of 4) - Having consolidated their hold on North Am, the Makers begin moving southward. Magnus stands ready to defend South Am, but can he hold out until Rai and the Future Force members arrive?

FUTURE FORCE #15

By Ostrander, Chen and Bolinger
$2.25/$2.85 Canadian

The Battle of South Am (Pt. 1 of 4) - Rai and what remains of the Future Force rush to answer Magnus' urgent call for assistance. However, doubts begin to creep in over what they can do.

SOLAR #27

By K. VanHook, Grau, Palmiotti and C. VanHook
$2.25/$2.85 Canadian

Awake in the Dreamtime - Solar travels to Australia, hoping to learn from the Aboriginal peoples how to make his psyche whole again.

TUROK #5

By Truesen, Morales, Elliott and Dunn
$2.50/$3.15 Canadian

Caught off-guard by his reunion with Andar, Turok searches to make sense of his life.

X-O #22

By González, Karounos and Ryder
$2.25/$2.85 Canadian

Randy struggles to control the armor, but the darker side of her nature seems to be gaining the upper hand. In South America, Ant finds himself in the fight of his life...without the armor.

COURTESY OF:

Next Issue!

September's focus is on H.A.R.D. CORPS and what the future holds for the post-**HARBINGER** **BIG** VALIANT Universe. There's also a new Secret Identity Challenge, more VALIANT news, and a color centerspread poster of NINJAK!

See you in 30 days.